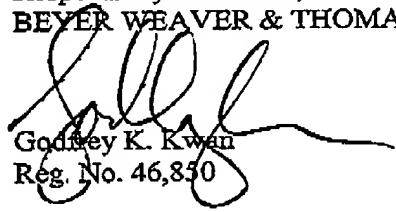


REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending. Claims 1-8 and 15 are allowed. Claims 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lenihan (6,169,843) in view of Schneier. (Applied Cryptography: Protocols, Algorithms, and Source Code in C, Second Edition by Bruce Schneier (ISBN: 0471117099)). The Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 1-8 and 15. Although claims 9-14 are believed allowable, claims 9-14 have been canceled to facilitate prosecution. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims 9-14 at a later time.

In light of the above remarks above, all independent claims and associated dependent claims are believed allowable for at least the reasons noted above. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,  
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

  
Godfrey K. Kwan  
Reg. No. 46,850

P.O. Box 70250  
Oakland, CA 94612-0250  
(510) 663-1100